

THE FINE ARTS.

ART SALES. The taste for works of art of a high character, which has extended beyond a comparatively narrow circle in the United States within a few years past, and become general in all classes of society, is an important indication of national prosperity, and of a disposition to use money for the gratification of the finer instincts of human nature, that are significant of the fact that the American people are preparing to take their stand beside the older nations of the earth in all those refinements that mark an advanced state of civilization. We have been too long accused of being mere utilitarians, and it is certainly time that Americans had learned to spend their money for works of art, not only for the pleasure which such works afford, but for the purpose of stimulating artistic genius. Leaving every other consideration out of the question, however, it is certain that fine pictures do have a humanizing influence greater in some respects even than literature, and that for the decoration of homes they are superior to any other ornaments that money can buy. It is impossible to estimate the beneficial effects that a few choice works of art will have upon the children of a household, who grow up in familiar daily acquaintance with them from infancy, and it is just the kind of culture that is most needed at the present time on this side of the Atlantic. Our artists need a public that is able to discriminate in matters of art to stimulate them in developing their faculties to the highest degree, and to supply that appreciative spirit of criticism without which it is useless to hope for first-class performances. We must have an intelligent, art-loving public before we can have a race of first class artists. These are considerations that present themselves to those who are solicitous about the prosperity of the fine arts in the United States, but the majority of those who have money to spend on pictures and statuary are chiefly concerned about making good investments. They desire to secure works of real merit that they will not become tired of in a few years, after a familiar acquaintance with them on the walls of a gallery or drawing-room reveals their defects, but which will rather increase in attractiveness as time advances. It is certain that no better investment of money can be made than in really meritorious pictures. They will increase in value with each succeeding year, and under ordinary circumstances can nearly always be sold at an advance on the original purchase-money. In the dissemination of art-works, the various public sales that are held in this city nearly every winter do much for the promotion of art culture. It is true that a great number of inferior productions are thus at times put before the public, but the good that is accomplished more than counterbalances the evil, and picture buyers are enabled to make selections and often to purchase works of extraordinary merit at comparatively low figures that would be impracticable under ordinary circumstances. It only needs an ordinary amount of discrimination and common judgment for purchasers to avoid having bad pictures forced upon them at an art sale, and the superior character of the works offered on these occasions proves that the public has learned to discriminate. This season there has been an unusual amount of activity among the fine art dealers, and a number of sales have been inaugurated or are in prospect that will afford excellent opportunities for picture buyers to secure the performances of artists of established reputation, whose names are, to a certain extent, an assurance of excellence. No one, however, who really wishes to adorn his home with paintings that will be a perpetual source of enjoyment to himself, his children, and his friends, should permit himself to be guided in his selections by the names upon the canvas, for there are many works of rare merit offered at art sales executed by men unknown to fame, or who have failed to achieve that popularity that the vagaries of public taste have bestowed upon some others. All that is required in cases of this kind is that purchasers should allow themselves the exercise of an unbiased taste to choose what they know they like, or if they have no confidence in their own judgment, to avail themselves of the experience of some one whose knowledge of art matters is sufficient for the formation of a critical opinion. In connection with what we have said above, we call the attention of our readers to the collection of oil paintings now on exhibition at No. 1120 Chesnut street, which will be sold this evening and to-morrow by Martin Brothers. These works are from the galleries of Mr. G. Felman and Mr. Joseph Richardson. The first named of these gentlemen is well known as a picture dealer of taste and experience. His handsome gallery at Callowhill and Marshall streets is a favorite place of resort for art lovers in the northern part of the city, and in the collection now offered for sale he has some choice works by French and German artists, popular in subject, and executed with that technical skill for which the best European schools are celebrated. [Mr. Richardson is an art connoisseur of the sale, besides a number of original works, includes copies of the old masters, some of which are of much merit and others which are interesting as curiosities. Among the prominent pictures we notice a charming pair after Sir Edwin Landseer, entitled "Peace" and "War," several fancy heads attributed to Sir Joshua Reynolds; a curious old "Allegory of the Creation, with the four Elements," attributed to Rubens and Breghele; "Ruins near the River Rhine," by H. Becker, of Dusseldorf; "Goats," by Von Severdonck; "A Portrait of Wombwell's celebrated Lion Wallace," painted from life by Joseph Richardson; "Landscapes, with cattle, dogs," etc., by H. and C. Shayer; "Coast Scene," by W. Shayer, Jr.; "Interior," by F. Strobel; "The Swallow-maker," by Scheerer; "The Poultrywoman of Antwerp," by Verhoveu Bsl; "View on the Ohio," by Hestel; "Portrait of Andrew Jackson from life," by C. Wilson Peale; "Romano and Juliet," by C. Hoff; "English Roadside Inn," by J. and H. Saver; "Market Scene," by Professor C. Janssens; "View on the Schuykill River" and "The Sailor's Requiem," by E. Moran, and a great variety of others by eminent European and American painters, that afford a large choice. There are a number of really fine works in this collection, and an opportunity is afforded for purchasers to secure at a bargain pictures that commend themselves in every way to good taste, and that will be more highly esteemed the more they are studied. Another extensive art sale will take place during the present month under the superintendence of B. Scott, Jr. Over two hundred and fifty paintings will be offered on this occasion, the original cost of which, we are informed, approximates to \$100,000. The pictures are by some of the most famous masters of the day, and the entire collection has been selected with the greatest care, by a gentleman of

well-known artistic taste, in the studios of Europe, and it will represent the highest art talent of the present day. Rumors of this sale have already excited much interest in the breasts of our art connoisseurs, and further particulars with regard to it are looked for with impatience. The information we possess on the subject, and which we are not at liberty to give to the public at the present time, is such that we are confident that this will be a rare chance for collectors of first-class works of art. NEW YORK ISMS. From Our Own Correspondent. New York, Feb. 3, 1870. "The Twelve Temptations." A bill lies before me which dazzles me when I look at it. It is not a tradesman's bill, nor a doctor's bill, nor a washerwoman's bill, nor a lodging-house keeper's bill. It is something more brilliant and vari-colored than either of these. It is the handbill of *The Twelve Temptations*, which is to be produced next Monday evening at the Grand Opera House. This document, which is closely printed, and is four feet long and a foot and a half wide, assures me that the "gorgeous spectacular legendary romance" of *The Twelve Temptations* is founded upon the tradition of Walpurga Eve, is produced at a cost of seventy-five thousand dollars, has been ten months in preparation, and in the course of its nightly delineation will present three hundred performers to the public. It informs me of the Christian names and surnames of the parties variously responsible for the scenery, machinery, armor, costumes, ornamental foil work, mountings, helmets, shields, banners, armorial bearings, implements of war, Egyptian trophies, general paraphernalia, calcium effects, illuminations, revolving temples, transformation scenes, music, and poetry. The legend consists of four parts and twenty scenes. It is emphatically a leg piece in the most fleshed sense of that term. And the moral is extremely pure. It might with equal propriety be called *The Ten Commandments*, or *The Seven Deadly Sins*, as *The Twelve Temptations*. After having seen legs of every nationality, age, sex, and condition of pulchritude and plumpness, during three hours of the evening, you are presented with a vision of the "Home of the Blessed," a sort of Mahomet's paradise, where the lovers of pretty legs go to after a life well spent in the pursuit of femoral continuations shrouded in ephemeral saucerskirts. When I add that the entire entertainment is got up at the instigation of Mr. James Fisk, Jr., it will readily be understood that its morality is perfectly unimpeachable, and that its tendency will be to uphold the sanctity of domestic relations. Indeed, this has been Mr. Fisk's central idea—to make the Grand Opera House a place which families may visit without bringing a blush to the cheek of the Young Person. By-the-by, it is a pity about that Young Person. In New York he is generally supposed to travel on his cheek, instead of permitting blushes to travel there. A private dress rehearsal is to be given next Saturday night, to which about three hundred people—mostly newspaper and theatrical—will be invited. As I heard a lady once nearly express it, the costumes of the *dansesuses* will be a "pair of pink stockings up to the waist, and a ruffle to hide the garters!" Chloe Langton in New York. Who has not heard of Chloe Langton, the happy sufferer, the physically-wretched saint, who the greater part of her life has been bedridden, agonized under a complication of painful diseases? All the most sensitive nerves of her being have been laid bare for a quarter of a century beneath the microscope of suffering, and thousand of pious sympathizers have gone to visit her, in her Connecticut home, from every quarter of the globe. Well, there is a sort of Chloe Langton here in New York. She is the wife of a brutal Chinese whose name is Mow-Wei-See, and her home is in a filthy kennel of Cherry street. Her appearance is infinitely more repulsive than Chloe Langton's is, or ever can be, for in the first place the seams and ravages of her disease are external; and, in the second place, her distorted features have no under-meanings of beauty created by an exalted spiritual life. Her neighbors, with the willful mispronunciation of a name for which the Celtic nomenclature offers them but little analogy, call her Mrs. Morrissey. Inflammatory rheumatism has twisted her head, trunk, and limbs out of the semblance of human shape. Continual hunger, nakedness, cold, damp, darkness, filth, and brutality have been doing their work with her for years. The crown of her head presents a fissure through which the brain can be seen palpitating. Her bosom has lost every rounded outline of full-fruited womanhood, and is a coil of twisted knots. Her finger nails have become claws, and her arms are like gnarled branches. Her eyes are almost sightless, and no moment is free from torture. Add to this that her husband treats her with oaths and brutality, and that for all she gets she is dependent upon the exertions of her oldest child, a boy of eleven years, and you have such a picture of human suffering as seems more congenial to the shades of hell than to this bright and beautiful world. Prince Fair-Star. The circumstances of the case warrant me in applying to Prince Arthur the name which Madame d'Aunoy's old French nursery legend gives to *La Princesse Belle-Etoile*, for certainly the star under which Arthur appears to have been born was a fair and prosperity-promising one. But perhaps it would be equally proper for me to call him *Le Prince Cheri*, for he has finally succeeded in establishing himself as Arthur the Beloved among many of the younger ladies who have had the honor of dining or dancing with him. Painted Ennui and rouged Fatigue have smiled naturally and simply for a little space in his company, and, thanks to the polished courtesy of Mr. Grinnell, a ball has been given at Delmonico's in honor—not of himself, but of his mother! So the invitation expressly stated, and even his honored and lamented father was left out in the cold. Incipient Donats. The crippled newboys—the crunched and one-legged varieties in the Park. Donati, I believe, is the one-legged foreign dancer, whose toe is all the more "light" and "fantastic" for its being only half the quantity of other people's. The way these halt gamins play hunkadee on crutches proves that beings blessed with the usual number of tibias and fibulas never appreciate the capabilities that lie dormant in single-leggedness. Ali Baba. A Washington correspondent telegraphed to a Boston paper that, although the company at the Prince Arthur ball at Washington "was not the cream of society, there was a general gathering of the good, the great, the gifted, and the gay." In reading this one may well wonder what qualities mark the cream of society in Washington.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

THE CITY AMUSEMENTS. AT THE CHESTNUT the Galton troupe will appear this evening in Levy's opera of *Fanchette* and Dibdin's musical comedietta of *The Waterman*. Miss Susan Galton will have a benefit to-morrow. AT THE WALNUT the last three nights of the drama of *London* are announced. AT THE ARCH Mr. John Brougham's drama of *The Red Light* will be represented this evening. AT DUPRE & BENEDICT'S OPERA HOUSE a first-rate programme of music and melody will be presented this evening. AT THE ELEVENTH STREET OPERA HOUSE an attractive minstrel performance will be given this evening. SITOR BLITZ and his son will execute some of their feats of magic at the Assembly Building this evening. THE SEVEN HASSLER ORCHESTRA will give a matinee at Musical Fund Hall on Saturday. THE PAREFA-ROSA English opera troupe will commence a season of seven nights and two matinees at the Academy of Music on the 11th instant. Mr. D. De Vivo, the agent of the troupe, is now in the city making arrangements for the opening night. CITY ITEMS. CLOTHING. CHEAPER. BETTER MADE. BETTER FITTING. AT TOWER HALL. 122 N. 3RD ST. THAN ANYWHERE ELSE. HENNETT & CO., No. 516 MARKET STREET. THE METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL passed through the State Senate. Prince Arthur passed through Philadelphia. But few gentlemen pass our show windows without stopping to admire the style, cut and finish of our \$12 and \$14 PATALONS, made of the best FINNISH and ENGLISH CASIMIRS to order, by O. STOKES. DAY FEET.—The most effectual way of guarding one's health is to keep the feet dry, and that can only be done by the use of India Rubber Overshoes, and as the inclement season is upon us, we would advise our readers to buy some of the best quality, which can only be had at GODYEAR'S Headquarters, No. 328 Chestnut street, south side, Philadelphia. JEWELRY.—Mr. William W. Cassidy, No. 12 S. Second street, has the largest and most attractive assortment of fine Jewelry and Silverware in the city. Purchasers can rely upon obtaining a real, pure article, furnished at a price which cannot be equalled. He also has a large stock of American Western Watches in all varieties and at all prices. A visit to his store is sure to result in pleasure and profit. ALL THE FACTS IN A NUTSHELL.—The points of difference between PRALON'S VIZALIA, OR SALVATION FOR THE HAIR, and the other hair dressing articles, are these:—They are sticky—they do not dry, they are opaque—they are transparent. They are sold in a glass bottle. They are made in France. They produce daily hair—reproduces nature's hues. Sold by all druggists. HALLET, DAVIS & CO.'S NEW OCTAGON PIANOS are a great improvement over the Upright Pianos. They are not only very beautiful but captivating in tone. Warehouses, No. 927 Chestnut street. RUBBER OVERSHOES AND BOOTS for Men, Women, and Children, can be had at retail at the very lowest prices. Godyear's manufacture, old stand, No. 328 Chestnut street, lower side. SINGER'S FAMILY SEWING MACHINES, Ten dollars cash. Balance in monthly instalments. O. F. DAVIS, No. 610 Chestnut street. MR. HASKELL'S, No. 1125 Chestnut street, great sale of Fine Engravings and Etchings commences this evening at 7 1/2 o'clock, and continues three evenings. B. SCOTT, JR., Auctioneer. FILES.—Dr. W. A. McCandless, No. 1296 Spring Garden street, gives his entire time to the permanent cure of Piles. Best city reference given. CALL and see the Parham Family Sewing Machines at No. 704 Chestnut street. Sold on easy monthly payments. IN CONSEQUENCE OF In Consequence of In Consequence of The extensive alterations we are now making, and the Annual Stock Taking Annual Stock Taking Annual Stock Taking During the month of February, we will from this time Make Lower Prices Make Lower Prices Make Lower Prices On all our stock, which is still very large and complete, both in Men's and Boys' Suits Men's and Boys' Suits Men's and Boys' Suits and Light and Heavy Overcoats. Light and Heavy Overcoats. Light and Heavy Overcoats. Our prices are acknowledged to be lower than any, and in Style and Make we are quite superior. WANAMAKER & BROWN, WANAMAKER & BROWN, OAK HALL, OAK HALL, S. E. corner SIXTH and MARKET Streets. S. E. corner SIXTH and MARKET Streets. MARRIED. DAVIS—HARTFELD.—On Wednesday, February 2, 1870, at Holy Trinity Church, by the Rev. William Bacon Stevens, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, JOSEPH M. DAVIS, of Philadelphia, to FLORENCE, daughter of the late Henry J. Hartfelde, U. S. Navy. No cards. (New York "Herald" and Savannah "Republican" please copy.) HOLMES—PAYNTER.—On the 10th of January, 1870, by the Rev. G. W. MacLaughlin, J. P. HOLMES, of Philadelphia, to LUCY PAYNTER, of Wilmington, Delaware. SHOEMAKER—FRITZ.—On February 1, by Rev. Thomas X. Orr, Mr. C. ELWOOD SHOEMAKER to Miss JOSEPHINE D. FRITZ, daughter of Major J. D. FRITZ. DIED. ELLIS.—Suddenly, on the 31st ultimo, Mrs. CATHERINE ELLIS, aged 75 years. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. J. G. Kuhnle, No. 1402 Green street, on Friday afternoon at 12 o'clock. To proceed to Lutheran Church, Germantown. ENGLE.—At Chester, on the 3d instant, MARY ENGLE, in the 94th year of her age. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, from her late residence, in Chester, Delaware county, on Monday, the 7th instant. To meet at the house at 10 o'clock A. M. WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE. GRANT.—On Tuesday afternoon, February 1, EMMA, daughter of C. H. and Emma C. Grant, aged 5 years. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her father, No. 1844 Arch street, on Friday morning next at 10 o'clock. LOWRY.—On the 1st instant, GEORGE B. LOWRY, in the 38d year of his age. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his mother, Mrs. Hannah Miller, Ridge avenue, near Washington lane, on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. To proceed to Randalson Cemetery. MCCOXXVIII.—I WOULD RECOMMEND that in order to meet the increased demand for my patent RUBBER OVERSHOES, I have taken the large Factory at No. 1228 RIDGE AVENUE. With my enlarged facilities, I am now prepared to supply promptly all orders in city or country. E. S. HAWLEY, (Inventor)

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